



**MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ONTARIO ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE**

Minutes

Meeting No. 1.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Members

Paul Cosburn
Taleen Der Haroutiounian
Frankie Ip
Adam Keung
Stephen Lusk
Alina Tarbhai
Jenny Tung
Ken Wightman

Council

Councillor Alan Ho

Staff

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator
Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director of Culture
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

REGRETS

Rahul Shastri
Julie Tiefenbach

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee convened at 6:01 pm with Stephen Lusk presiding as Chair.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 14, 2015

It was

Moved by Ken Wightman

Seconded by Frankie Ip

That the October 14, 2015, Markham Public Art Advisory Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. BRAINSTORMING

Three Year Plan

Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director of Culture, provided history related to Markham's three year public art plan, under development since 2013; it is now felt that it would be best to first develop a public art master plan and then develop a three year plan. Over time, funding possibilities have changed so that now funding sources for public art initiatives may be limited to funding from taxes, such as the gas tax, and allocations made by Council. However, there may be an opportunity to use Markham's Greenprint, which includes public art as a strategy to make Markham one of the most sustainable and livable cities in North America.

Fundraising

Committee members discussed the possibility of developing a proposal for fundraising in support of public art and presenting it to Markham Council.

Youth Ambassador

Committee members discussed the possibility of recruiting a non-voting youth member for the Committee. Suggestions included approaching the Mayor's Youth Task Force or a local school such as Unionville High School (students were involved in the Traffic Control Box Wraps design project) or Bill Crothers High School (where James Ruddell's students assisted with the design and installation of the Henderson Bridge Mural or the production of twelve art panels depicting local Pan Am athletes installed in the Pan Am Centre.)

Art Summit

The Committee discussed ways to excite Markham residents about public art and what it means to Markham. It was suggested that the Committee could develop a proposal which could be presented to groups; the proposal could be refined as groups provided input. Committee members were reminded of an event, Art in the Park, held in previous years and that opportunities to produce public art do not always have to be through high-priced projects. Committee members were encouraged to generate ideas amongst themselves but were reminded that decisions need to be made by the Committee as a whole.

6. TOOGOOD POND PROJECT

Corinna Ghaznavi, Public Art Coordinator, reported that the patina will be applied to the final sculpture in warmer weather. The official opening will be scheduled in conjunction with the Mayor's schedule. Committee discussion focused on choosing a date which would encourage Markham residents to become involved, such as during the Unionville Festival in June. It was agreed that this would also enhance visibility for the Mayor and Council members. If the Mayor's schedule would not accommodate attending an official opening during the Unionville Festival, then the official opening could be held close to the time of the installation and an outreach event could be held at a later date.

7. WILLIAM BERCZY COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT

It was reported that the sculpture is complete. However, the area around the park, where the sculpture is to be installed, is presently under construction. It is anticipated that installation may be scheduled for September 2016.

8. CORNELL COMMUNITY CENTRE PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

Known for his "Blue and White" delft tile work, Douglas Walker proposed to use this concept on ceramic tiles at the Cornell Community Centre. The artwork has now been completed. It was noted that the finished piece differs from the original concept and that Mr. Walker will be asked to revise the description for the plaque to accompany the work. Mr. Walker has inspected the artwork and is not concerned about issues related to grouting. It is expected that the official installation will take place in late February or early March 2016.

9. VETERAN'S SQUARE

Corinna Ghaznavi reported that the City of Markham has obtained a grant from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, part of the Government of Canada's celebration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation; the grant will be used to revitalize the cenotaph located at the corner of Highway 48 and Highway 7. The Culture Department has been asked to lead the public art component of this project. The RFP deadline to submit a project proposal was January 8, 2016. Twenty-five submissions were received and a selection committee of five members has been established. Markham is waiting for confirmation of the funds from the granting agency before proceeding further. Markham hopes to schedule the installation of the work in conjunction with November 2017 - Canada 150 celebrations.

In response to Committee questions, Moe Hosseini-Ara explained the steps in the selection process, which has been adopted by many municipalities. A project is defined and then an RFP is issued to solicit proposals. Corinna Ghaznavi then draws on her experience to recruit a selection committee based on the project – the experience of the selection committee members should closely match the type of project; in addition, they should understand the project scope and what Markham hopes to accomplish via public art. The selection committee members will review the proposals and short list the top five proposals. The artists are then asked to provide detailed information and mock ups for further review. The selection committee then selects the successful proposal; Committee members have an open invitation to attend the final selection process as non-voting observers. The Committee would review the selected proposal and make a recommendation to Markham Council. Committee members advised that, for future projects, the Committee would appreciate receiving short biographies of selection committee members.

Moe Hosseini-Ara also reviewed funding allocated to the Public Art and current projects. Committee members suggested making a presentation to Markham Council on the benefits of sustainable funding for the Committee.

11. BENJAMIN THORNE

The City has also obtained a grant from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, to create a monument to Benjamin Thorne. Original plans were to locate the monument in front of the Thornhill Community Centre; the City is now considering the entrance at the Pomona Mills Tennis Club, which is within the Thornhill Heritage District and closest to Benjamin Thorne's homestead. Staff will determine whether the move will impact the grant.

12. OTHER PUBLIC ART UPDATES

Corinna Ghaznavi reported that the Remington Group has hired Judith Tater to coordinate its public art program, including its master plan for downtown Markham.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Nuit Blanche

Committee members discussed the possibility of holding an all-night art event. It was suggested that time would be needed to connect with Nuit Blanche (Toronto) organizers to obtain information and then to adequately plan the event. Such an event might work well in 2017 in conjunction with Canada 150 celebrations. Corinna Ghaznavi offered to help strategize and plan such an event.

“Charity” Sculpture

In May 2015, the Committee voted to decline the donation of the sculpture due to concerns about safety, maintenance costs, and location. Safety concerns have been addressed and it appears that there may be funding forthcoming for maintenance, location is still being considered. Staff will be meeting to determine next steps.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Paul Cosburn
Seconded by Taleen Der Haroutiounian

That the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

CARRIED